

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02543 251624Z

47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 CIEP-03 IO-14 NIC-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

(ISO) W

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R 251435Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8483

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, NG

SUBJ: CLOSING OF ROC MISSION IN NIGER

REF: A) NIAMEY 2430 B) STATE 161259

1. HAVING ORIGINALLY IMPOSED NO TIME LIMIT ON CLOSING OF CHINESE EMBASSY IN NIAMEY AND DEPARTURE OF CHINESE TECHNICIANS FROM NIGER, GON REVERSED ITSELF EARLIER THIS WEEK AND IS NOW INSISTING THAT ENTIRE MISSION TOTALLING ABOUT 50 CHINESE DEPART IMMEDIATELY. FIRST CONTINGENT SCHEDULED LEAVE FOR TAIPEI VIA PARIS EARLY MORNING JULY 26. AMBASSADOR LEE WILL FOLLOW IN NEXT FEW DAYS WITH BALANCE OF TECHNICIANS.

2. CHANGE IN GON ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHINESE MISSION CAME AT SAME TIME AS RELEASE IN PRESS OF COMMUNIQUE IN PEKING (HONG KONG
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 02543 251624Z

8251) WHICH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SERIES OF EDITORIALS IN LOCAL

PRESS PRAISING NEW GOVERNMENT FOR INNOVATIVE AND REALISTIC POLICY OF RECONIZING REALITY OF COMMUNIFT CHINA IN CONTRAST TO POLICIES OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS ACCUSED OF LIVING IN PAST. NOTABLY ABSENT HAS BEEN ANY CRITICISM OF ROC OR OF ITS MISSION HERE. AMBASSADOR LEE ATTRIBUTES THIS TO FACT THAT MANY MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AND PRESS ARE AWARE OF CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH CHINESE MISSION HAS MADE TO NIGER'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. PRINCIPAL REASON ATTRIBUTED TO CHANGE IN GON POSITION IS GOVERNMENT'S IRRITATION OVER REFUSAL OF CHINESE TECHNICIANS TO OVERSEE PLANTING OF NEW RICE CROP WHICH IS ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY. AFTER INFORMING AMBASSADOR LEE OF DECISION TO RECOGNIZE PRC, GON TURNED AROUND AND ASKED TECHNICIANS TO STAY ON TO HELP WITH RICE PLANTING BUT THEY REFUSED. GON HAS ACCORDINGLY ASKED THEM TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY AND AMBASSADOR LEE IS ATTEMPTING TO COMPLY, PRINCIPAL DELAYING FACTOR BEING LACK OF AIR LINE SPACE OUT OF NIAMEY.

4. STATE 161259 REGARDING CATERPILLER EQUIPMENT FOR ROC R AND R PROJECT JUST RECEIVED. LOCAL CATERPILLAR AGENT INSISTS THAT EQUIPMENT IS NOT REPEAT NOT IN COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO HIS BEST INFORMATION, EQUIPMENT MAY NOT HAVE LEFT US. HE IS CHECKING FURTHER. EITHER WAY, WE WILL BE REVIEWING OPTIONS WITH THE GON BEARING IN MIND HELPFUL GUIDANCE IN REF B.
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Message Attributes

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